

Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration

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NATIONAL CEMETERY

In the South Florida Area

Palm Beach County, Florida

- The new 313-acre national cemetery in south Florida will serve veterans' needs for the next 50 years. The new cemetery is located in Palm Beach County, Fla., 19 miles northwest of Boca Raton.
- Burials are expected to begin in mid-2006 in the initial "fast track" development area of about three to five acres. This small-scale development is separate from the major phase one construction project and allows for burials to begin during construction of the cemetery. Initial operations will be conducted from an office trailer, a temporary committal service shelter, and equipment shed.
- Miller Legg and Associates, Inc., of Pembroke Pines, Fla., has been selected to produce the master planning and design documents. VA expects to award a construction contract and begin phase one construction in early 2006. The initial phase one construction will include: the "fast track" burial area, an entrance area, administration/maintenance complex, public information center, committal service shelters, full-casket gravesites, in-ground sites for cremation remains, and columbaria niches for cremation remains.
- VA prepared an Environmental Assessment for the Palm Beach County site in December 2001. In August 2002, the Department of Veterans Affairs purchased the site from private citizens.
- This new cemetery to serve veterans in the south Florida area is the fifth national cemetery in Florida. Florida's other four national cemeteries are: Barrancas, St. Augustine, Florida, and Bay Pines.
- Cemetery Director David Wells will answer questions about burial and eligibility and will distribute additional information. He may be contacted at (561) 422-7741 or email at dwells@cem.va.gov.
- More information on VA's National Cemetery Administration is available on its website, www.cem.va.gov.